In ternary form, the A section appears both at the beginning and at the end; like binary form, the B section is contrasting in character.

The reprised A section may be an exact repeat of the first A, or it may be slightly different, but the length of the A sections should be similar.

This is different from rounded binary, where the reprised A section (which we called A prime) is significantly shorter than the first A section.

The minuet and trio is a variation on ternary form used for instrumental music. Instead of writing out the reprised A section, the score will place the instruction “da capo al fine" after the B section, which means to return to the beginning, play through the A section, and end the piece.

This same form is commonly used in baroque and classical opera, where it is called a da capo aria. In both minuet & trio and da capo aria, any repeats are ignored when playing through the reprised A section.

It’s worth mentioning that there is a common form that is descended from minuet and trio form: the military march form favored by John Philip Sousa and other American march composers.

In the military march form, the A section is split into two subsections, called the first strain and second strain. The trio adds a flat (or removes a sharp) from the key signature, modulating to the key of the subdominant. Most marches begin with a short fanfare, and repeat the trio, placing a short, intensely dramatic passage between repetitions called the dogfight or breakstrain.

Ternary form is a three-part form. Rather than using three completely different sections, most pieces in ternary form consist of two sections, the first of which is reprised.